Mr. V. N. Damodaran Nambiar *(Trippunittura):* May I know whether any departmental enquiry was conducted?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* Yes, in a way. But it was not an exhaustive one. We thought that these people should be given a fairer chance than a mere departmental enquiry. Therefore, it was entrusted to a judicial officer who commands the widest respect and greatest confidence in the State and who has now retired from the bench. I refer to the ex-Chief Justice, Mr. Antony.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Is this special tribunal set up so that the persons connected with this case may be given a fairer trial?

Mr. President: The inquiry that is going to be conducted now will be the departmental enquiry. We wanted to see that even in such an inquiry the persons who are the subject-matter of inquiry should be given a fair and full chance of proving their innocence. This is really a first class departmental enquiry.

Demand put and carried

2. Rs. 2,500 under "14-8—Town Councils—Temporary Establishment"

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* Sir, I request for a grant of Rs. 2,500 under "14-8 Town Councils—Temporary Establishment." This is intended to meet the expenses connected with the staff appointed for the constitution of Town Councils. Their period has been extended for six months, so that the preliminary work for the establishment of these institutions in Trippunittura, Ollur, Cranganur, Chalakkudi and Pazhanji may be undertaken. I request the grant may be sanctioned by the House.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* Sir, I oppose the motion. I supported the Town Councils Bill, because it was only an experimental measure. We have tried that experiment in Vadakkancheri and Kunnamkulam. Let us wait for some time. After the war, we shall take up Chalakkudi or any other place.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* I think all these misapprehensions and fears are out of place. If you study this question properly you will find the Town Councils are not at all burdensome in the places where they are constituted.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* But what is the urgency?

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development)*: The urgency is to continue the work. It is considered to be a very good work by the very people who raised objections at the very beginning.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: At present we shall be satisfied with what is going on at Kunnamkulam and Vadakkancheri.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development)*: It is a matter of opinion. Government think that this work should be continued. As a matter of fact, in two places the request came from the people themselves.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South)*: Which are the two places?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development)*: Pazhanji and Trippunittura.

Demand put and carried

3. Rs. 2,940 under "24—Public Health—A 3—Rural Sanitation—supplies and services—charges for epidemics"

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development)*: Sir, I move for a supplementary grant of Rs. 2,940 under "24—Public Health—A 3—Rural Sanitation—supplies and services—charges for epidemics." As this House is aware there has been sporadic out-break of small-pox in various parts of the State. We have to engage additional staff and indent for large quantities of medicine. The expenditure incurred is much higher than what was anticipated. Therefore, this additional grant is asked for. As a matter of fact even now in certain localities near Trippunittura the situation is rather in a serious condition and we have to take strong measures to combat the disease.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South)*: Does the Hon'ble Minister refer to the cost of lymph? Then it is No. 4. Now we are on item No. 3.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development)*: Oh! I am sorry. The explanation which I just now gave is for the 4th item. I beg to be corrected. This amount is for adopting preventive measures with regard to the out-break of plague in Mattancheri.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: Is there any plague in Mattancheri?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development)*: There has been no human attack, but there were three or four rat-falls.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly